

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical ~~compound~~ composition comprising:

a therapeutically effective amount of bee venom; and

at least one anesthetic provided in an amount which is sufficient to reduce the irritation associated with the injection of said bee venom;

wherein said bee venom has a purity as that purified by a method comprising filtering through a 25 mcm or less filter.

2. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical ~~compound~~ composition of claim 1 wherein said anesthetic is provided in a ratio of between about 20:1-1:10 by weight relative to the weight of said bee venom.

3. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical ~~compound~~ composition of claim 2 wherein said anesthetic is provided in a ratio of between about 10:1-1:5 by weight relative to the weight of said bee venom.

4. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical ~~compound~~ composition of claim 3 wherein said anesthetic is provided in a ratio of between about 3:1-1:1 by weight relative to the weight of said bee venom.

5. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical ~~compound~~ composition of ~~claims~~ claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 further comprising at least one excipient or liquid carrier.

6. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical ~~compound~~ composition of claim 5 wherein said at least one excipient or liquid carrier are provided in an amount which is sufficient to provide between about ~~0.1mg~~ 0.1 mg and about ~~10mg~~ 10 mg of bee venom per mL.

7. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical ~~compound~~ composition of claim 6 wherein said at least one excipient or liquid carrier are provided in an amount which is sufficient to provide between about ~~0.5mg~~ 0.5 mg and about ~~5.0mg~~ 5.0 mg of bee venom per mL.

8. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical ~~compound~~ composition of claim 7 wherein said at least one excipient or liquid carrier are provided in an amount which is sufficient to provide about ~~1mg~~ 1 mg of bee venom per mL.

9. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical ~~compound~~ composition of claim ~~8~~ 1 wherein said at least one anesthetic is a local anesthetic.

10. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical ~~compound~~ composition of claim 9 wherein said local anesthetic is lidocaine.

11. (Currently Amended) A standardized bee venom preparation suitable for administration by injection comprising: a liquid carrier and admixed therein between about ~~0.1mg~~ 0.1 mg to about ~~10.0mg~~ 10.0 mg by weight of bee venom per mL of said liquid carrier, said preparation being filtered ~~though~~ through a ~~25mm~~ 25 mcm or less filter.

12. (Original) The standardized bee venom preparation of claim 11 further comprising at least one anesthetic provided in an

amount which is sufficient to reduce the irritation associated with the injection of said bee venom.

13. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said bee venom is purified by a method comprising filtering through a 25 mcm or less filter.

14. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said bee venom is collected using a low voltage electric shock method and air dried under a temperature of about 4°C.

15. (New) A standard bee venom preparation suitable for administration by injection comprising a liquid carrier and bee venom, wherein said standard bee venom preparation is filtered through a 25 mcm or less filter, and wherein said standard bee venom preparation comprises about 0.01 to about 1.0 mg of melittin and about 80 to about 9,500 mg of total protein per mL.

16. (New) The standard bee venom preparation of claim 15, wherein said standard bee venom preparation comprises about 0.01 to about 0.10 mg of melittin and about 400 to about 4,500 mcg total protein per mL.

17. (New) The standard bee venom preparation of claim 15, wherein said standard bee venom preparation comprises about 0.04 to about 0.05 mg of melittin and about 800 to 950 mcg of total protein per mL.

18. (New) The standard bee venom preparation of claim 15, wherein said standard bee venom preparation exhibits 40 to 100 HHU/mL of hyaluronidase activity when diluted to 100 mcg/mL and is capable of inhibiting gelatin induced aggregation of erythrocytes of 3-5 mm/H.